

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05
SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

-----240119Z 114949 /62

O 232307Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 310505

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - DECEMBER 23

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR DECEMBER 23,
1976:

Q. THERE IS A REPORT TODAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS
DEFINITELY CUT THE APPROPRIATION IN THE AID ALLOTTED FOR
ISRAEL BY \$800 MILLION FROM THE ISRAELI REQUEST. CAN YOU
DISCUSS THAT?

A. I REALLY CANNOT, JOE. I JUST CANNOT GET INTO A DIS-
CUSSION OF DECISION-MAKING WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.
THE FIGURES RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS FOR THE FOREIGN
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AID BILL WILL APPEAR IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET; AND BEFORE
THAT, I AM NOT ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE REQUESTS HAVE BEEN FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES? SAY, LIKE EGYPT, JORDAN --

A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO DISCUSS ANY FIGURES UNTIL THE
PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS SUBMITTED -- WHICH WILL BE SHORTLY

AFTER THE CONGRESS RECONVENES.

Q. NO, NOT THE FIGURES IN THE BUDGET FOR THESE COUN-
TRIES -- BUT THE FIGURES --

A. FOR PAST YEARS?

Q. NO, THE FIGURES THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY
HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES AS THEIR AID REQUESTS.

A. I JUST DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO THE SPOKESMAN IN THE EVENT HE RECEIVES QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MEETING DE(EMBER 23 BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR GHORBAL OF EGYPT AND THE AMBASSADORS OF SOMALIA, SYRIA AND MOROCCO:

Q. I UNDERSTAND THE ARAB AMBASSADORS CALLED TO PROTEST ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES' REQUEST FOR MAJOR NEW ARMS SUPPLIES FOR ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED STATES. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

A. THE AMBASSADORS CAME IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY AT THEIR REQUEST. THE SECRETARY LISTENED CAREFULLY TO WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY AND EXPLAINED OUR POLICY. WE HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL, AND WE ALSO HAVE A COM-
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MITMENT TO THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SECRETARY ASSURED THE AMBASSADORS THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DETERMINED TO HELP BRING ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE ISRAELI REQUESTS--WHERE DO THEY STAND?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT WE SAID AT THE TIME OF DEFENSE MINISTER PERES' VISIT.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS BY EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL AFTER THE MEETING REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 2:

"AMBASSADOR GHORBAL: THE ARAB AMBASSADORS HAD MET EARLY LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON, AND THEY HAVE REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHICH WE ARE HAPPY HAS TAKEN PLACE THIS AFTERNOON.

WE HAVE, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE ARAB AMBASSADORS, CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OUR GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUOUS REQUESTS BY ISRAEL FOR GROWING DEMANDS OF ARMAMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY AT THE TIME WHEN THE ARAB STATES ARE CONSIDERING 1977 AS THE YEAR FOR PEACE AND FOR REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ALL HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUS IN MOVING TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT ANY DELAY, SUPPORTED BY THE PREPOND-
ANT MAJORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND TRYING TO BRING A

TOTAL AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

WE HAVE LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE THIS CONCERN AND THE VERY CLEAR PICTURE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THIS PRIMARY ENDEAVOR OF EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, TO WHICH THE PRESENT AND THE COMING ADMIN-
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ISTRATION COMMITTED THEMSELVES--A TOTAL, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WE HAVE LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT CONTINUING SUPPLIES OF MILITARY AND ESPECIALLY HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO ISRAEL RENDERS HER MORE INTRANSIGENT. THE PROOF WAS THE ATTITUDE ISRAEL ADOPTED IN 1975, WHICH REQUIRED THE UNITED STATES TO CALL FOR A REASSESSMENT OF POLICY AT THAT TIME. WE FOUND THE SECRETARY MOST ATTENTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING. I WANT TO THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN."

KISSINGER

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